

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are presently active. In the following remarks, references to columns and lines of a patent will take the form of (X:Y) or (X:Y-Z), corresponding to column X, line Y, or column X lines Y-Z.

Drawing, Specification & Claims Corrections

Applicants thank the Examiner for the careful examination of the patent application and the identification of claim terminology errors. In light of the Examiner's comments, a complete review of the application was performed, resulting in the identified changes to drawings, specification, and claims.

In the drawings, FIG. 2 was corrected to include call out numbers identified in the text but missing from the drawing. In FIG. 4, duplicative callout 310 was corrected to 312. In FIG. 6, the duplicative callout 372 was corrected to 374, and the text of box 374 was corrected to comply with the specification description.

In the specification, at page 8, several incorrect callout references for NICs 1, 2 and 3 were corrected. On page 14, a missing reference to callout 374 was added. On page 15, terminology was updated to be consistent within the description.

In the claims, clerical errors noted by the Examiner were corrected.

All amendments to drawings, figures and claims were directed to clerical errors; none introduced new matter.

35. U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-2, 12, and 20-21 stand rejected under §102(e) as being anticipated by Kimber et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,222,855). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Kimber teaches "a device that will convert from a first protocol to a second, different protocol" (2:23-24). The protocols (DSCH, Ethernet) are known in advance, and the Kimber invention operates by receiving data in one format at a first interface and converting it to another format for use in another interface. As described in the Kimber Abstract, the first interface only operates with the first protocol (DSCH), and the second interface with the second protocol (Ethernet). That is, Kimber operates as a conduit, receiving data on one interface, e.g., FIG. 3 DSCH0/DSCH1, and outputting converted data on a second *different* interface, e.g., ENET0/ENET1.

This is not what is claimed. Instead, claim 1 recites:

receiving a first network data *to be transmitted by a first network interface* according to a protocol;

determining whether the first network interface supports the protocol;

if the protocol is not supported, then providing said first network data to a second network interface for processing of said first network data into a second network data according to the protocol; and

transmitting said second network data *with said first network interface*.

Kimber does not teach (or suggest) the claimed providing converted data back to a first network interface for transmission by the first network interface.

Regarding the statement in the Office Action at paragraph 7 that Kimber's protocol check anticipates the claimed determining whether the first interface supports a protocol, Applicants disagree and note that as discussed in Kimber at 4:67, the protocol

check is not checking whether a protocol is supported, instead it is checking to ensure the ASIC is operating correctly, e.g., whether the "logical protocol was followed."

Corresponding limitations to claim 1 are in independent claims 12. Regarding claim 20, it has been amended to clarify that data processed by a second network interface is returned to the first network interface. As discussed above, returning processed data back to the first network interface is not anticipated by Kimber.

Consequently, Applicants submit Kimber cannot anticipate claims 1-2, 12 and 20-21, and request that these rejections be withdrawn.

35. U.S.C. §103

Dependent claims 3-10, and 13-18 stand rejected under §103. Since all dependent claims are allowable for at least the reason of depending from allowable base claims, these rejections are not considered in detail herein pending resolution of the allowability of the independent claims.

However, Applicants note that all §103 rejections are based on Kimber in view of Cashman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,438,678), or Kimber in view of Cashman and Ramaswamy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,424,621).

As discussed above, Kimber fails to teach the method of claim 1, and therefore it would not be obvious to combine the references as suggested by the Office Action.

Consequently, Applicants traverse the rejections for at least this reason and respectfully request they be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, it is submitted that that all active claims are presently in condition for allowance, and their passage to issuance is respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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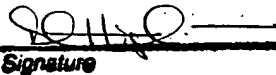
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Signature

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FIG. 6

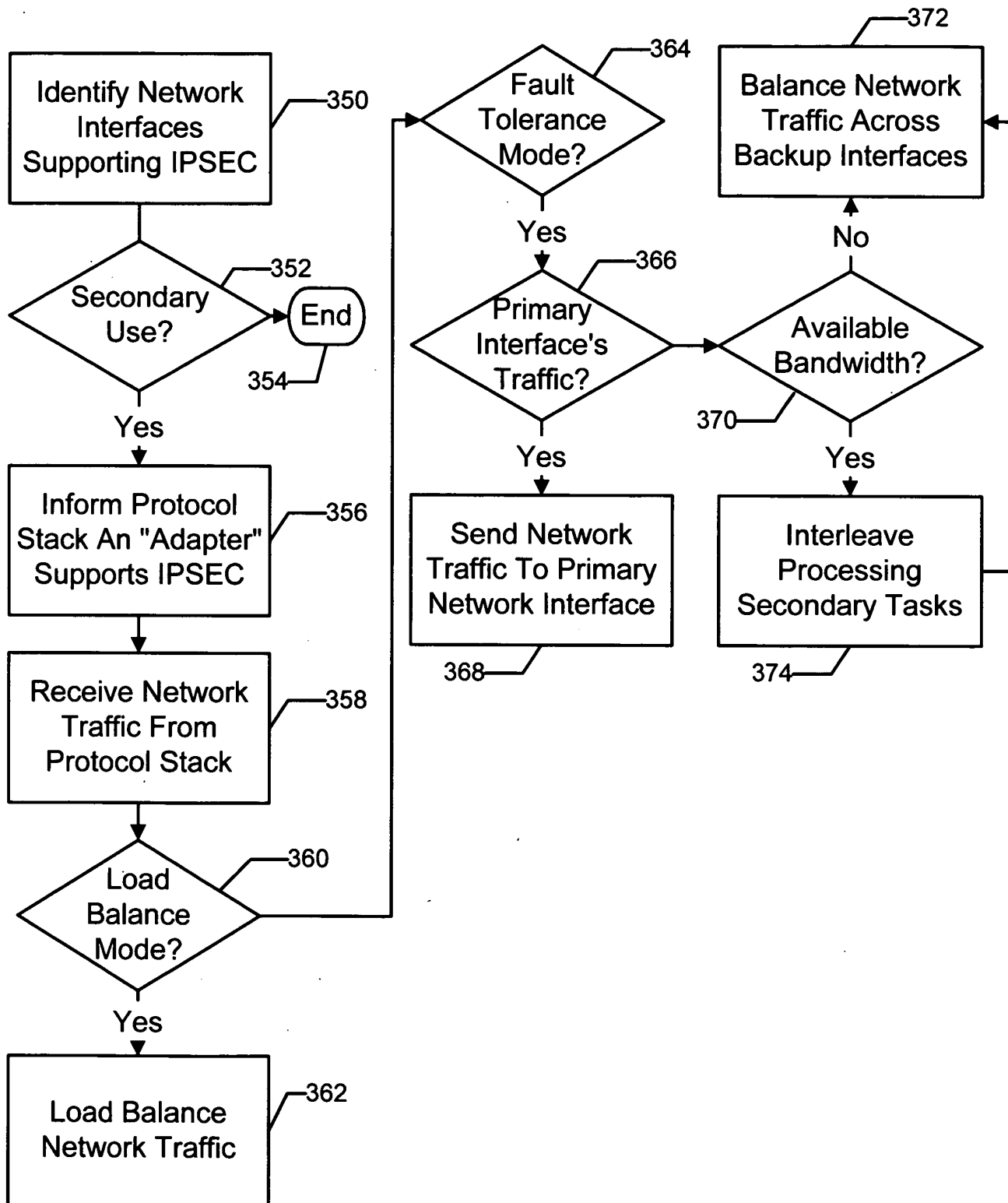


FIG. 2

